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Imagery analysis report

69th Army, Beijing
Military Region, China

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69TH ARMY, BEIJING MILITARY REGION, CHINA

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ABSTRACT

1. [] This report discusses the status of the 69th Army in the Beijing Military Region, China, as of []. It describes significant changes to the facilities and unit order-of-battle for the period []. The functions and locations of these units were derived from KEYHOLE imagery. [] Units not directly addressed in the text were determined to have remained relatively unchanged from the published National Basic Reference Graphics. All major combat elements of the 69th Army's subordinate elements are presented in the table.

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2. (S/D) The overall unit structure of the army appears to be a combination of the old and new tables of organization and equipment. A partial force upgrading occurred during the period of early 1977 through early 1978, principally in the artillery units with the introduction of truck-mounted rocket launchers and the replacement of two mortar battalions with gun/howitzer battalions. Only one antiaircraft artillery battalion was upgraded to regimental level, one of the first of this type observed in China, while the engineer and infantry units appeared to be unchanged for the period of this report.

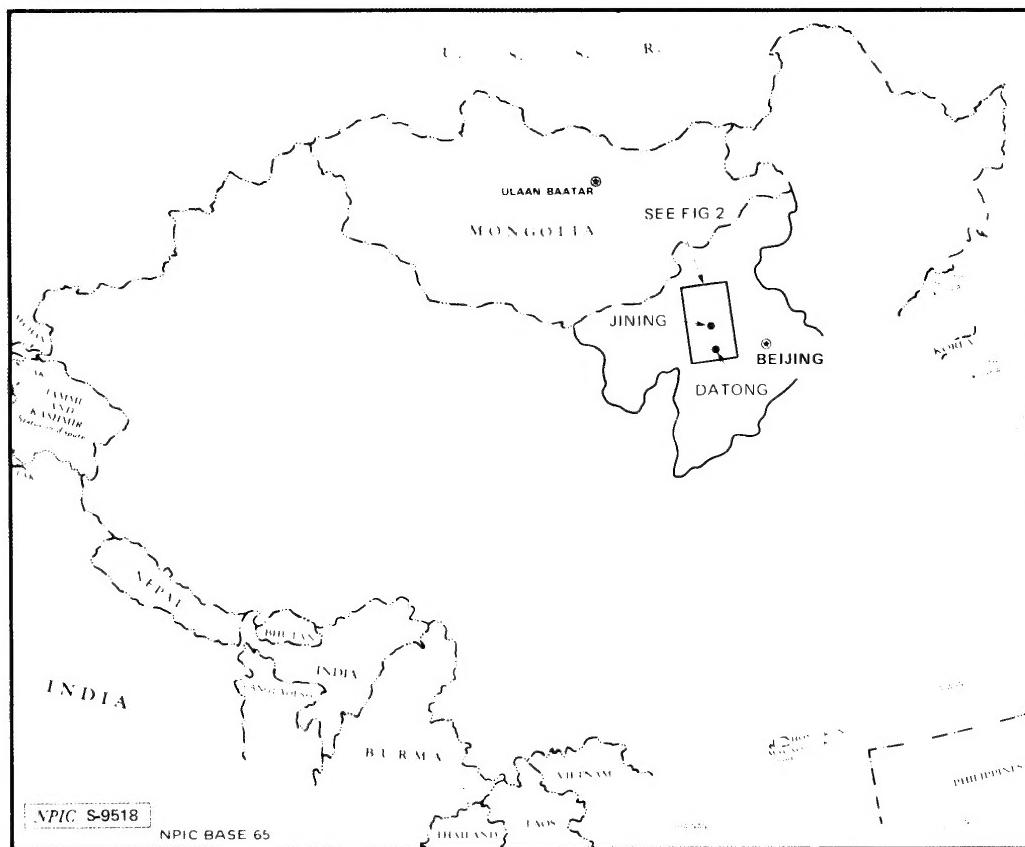
3. (U) This report contains two location maps, three annotated photographs, one table, and one chart.

INTRODUCTION

4. [] The 69th Army* is one of eight main force armies in the Beijing Military Region (MR) and may have a fourth division within its organizational structure rather than the commonly seen three divisions.¹ The army, 150 nautical miles (nm) west of Beijing (Figure 1), is bounded by the 65th Army, 80 nm to the northeast, and the 63rd Army, 150 nm to the south. Deployed along a north/south axis, the army is oriented toward the northwest and the Sino-Mongolian Border (Figure 2). With its two northern divisions deployed within fortified defensive areas, it appears that a portion of its mission may be the conduct of an area defense. If this is the case, the remaining divisions would be free to either reinforce, conduct a subsequent and more traditional mobile defense, or move to the dominating terrain around Datong and block access into the city.

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*For the purposes of this report, all army unit designators and subordinations were acquired from referenced document 1.

**FIGURE 1 LOCATION MAP OF 69TH ARMY, BEIJING MILITARY REGION, CHINA**

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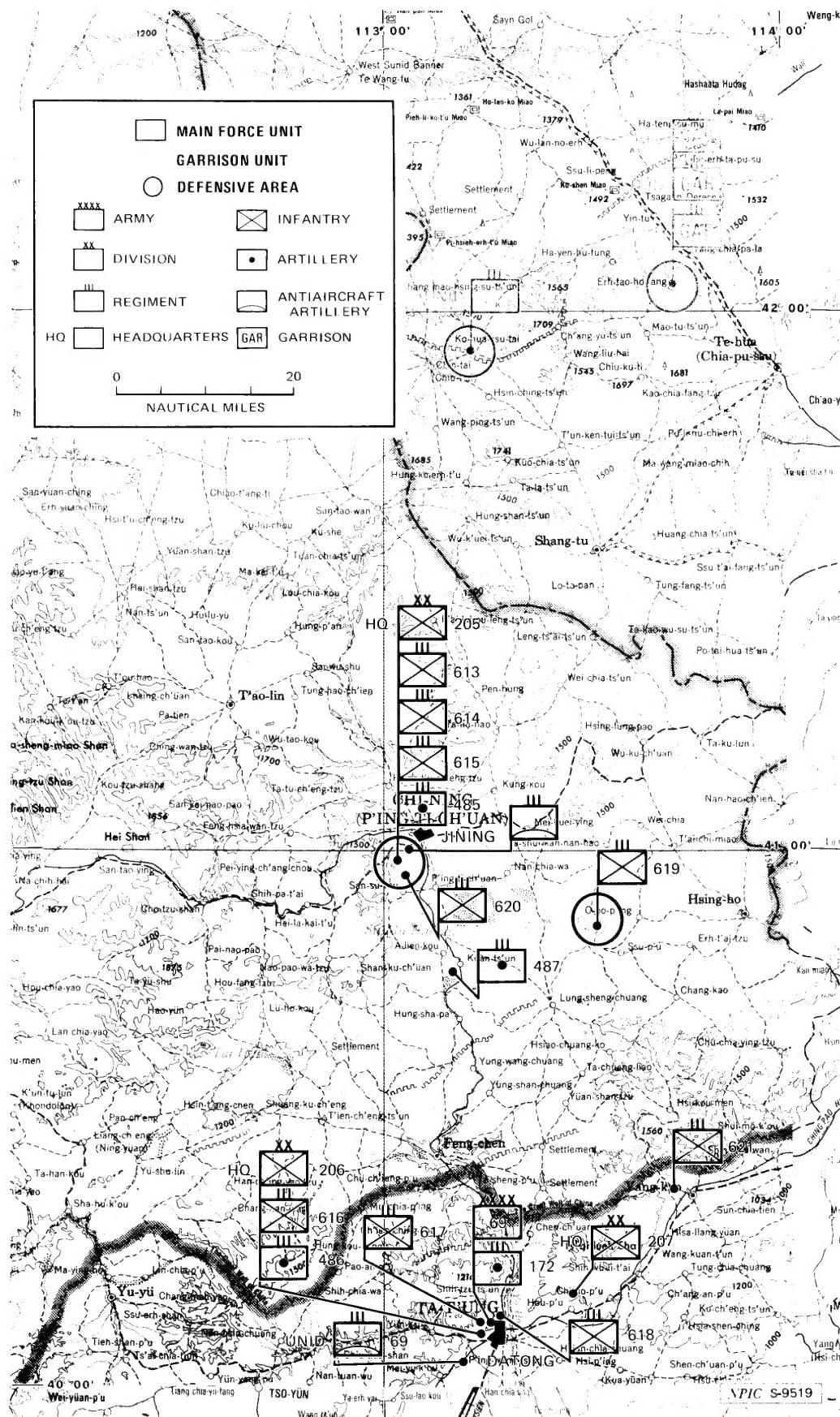


FIGURE 2. UNIT LOCATIONS, 69TH ARMY

5. [] Headquartered in Datong, the army has two of its main force divisions quartered in the immediate vicinity of the city. The remaining division is housed in two defensive areas near Jining.

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[] However, no photographic evidence exists indicating that this division may have been converted to a main force unit.

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

6. [] The 69th Army contains units comprising the army headquarters, the army-level support units, the 205th Infantry Division, the 206th Infantry Division, and the 207th Infantry Division. The additional independent garrison division at Huade, as yet unconfirmed in its subordination, will be considered in this report as a part of the army (Chart 1 and Table 1).

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Army Headquarters and Support Units

7. (S/D) No significant activity or changes have been observed relative to the army headquarters and the army-level support units.

205th Infantry Division

8. [] The 205th Infantry Division contains units that comprise the division headquarters, the division-level support units, the 613th Infantry Regiment, the 614th Infantry Regiment, and the 615th Infantry Regiment.

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9. (S/D) Extensive construction activity in the northeast section of Jining Headquarters Infantry Division and Barracks AL-6/Defensive Area, immediately south of Jining, has resulted in the recent completion of a regiment-sized headquarters and barracks complex occupied by the division antiaircraft artillery (AAA) regiment since April 1978 (Figure 3). This is the only battalion-to-regiment upgrading that occurred in this army and was one of the first observed division-level AAA expansions in China.

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10. [] Prior to April 1978, a battalion of BM-14-19 truck-mounted multiple rocket launchers (MRIs) was identified within the 485th Artillery Regiment. The presence of a third artillery battalion, possibly 122mm guns, in March 1979 suggests that a major upgrading effort may have occurred within this northernmost division during late 1977/early 1979.

11. (S/D) No other significant activity or change was observed within this division over the past three- and one-half-year period.

206th Infantry Division

12. [] The 206th Infantry Division contains units comprising the division headquarters, the division-level support units, the 616th Infantry Regiment, the 617th Infantry Regiment, and the 618th Infantry Regiment.

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13. (S/D) A new company-sized barracks area was added to the division headquarters installation, Datong Headquarters Infantry Division and Barracks Northwest AL-2, between August 1978 and August 1979. No specific unit has been identified with this newly constructed area.

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14. [] The 486th Artillery Regiment expanded its capabilities with the addition of a truck-mounted rocket launcher battalion during the spring of 1977. The lack of a second 122mm howitzer battalion suggests that an overall regimental upgrading did not occur as was the case with the 205th Infantry Division and, further, that the priority of replacement/resupply may be to the 205th Infantry Division.

15. [] Heavy construction activity was observed during this reporting period at the barracks complex for the 617th Infantry Regiment, Datong Army Barracks AL-14. This construction includes the addition of a battalion-sized area and the doubling of its associated housing capacity (Figure 4).

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16. [] A tank/assault gun company occasionally seen at Datong Army Barracks Northwest AL-2 is believed to be a part of the neighboring Datong armored division and to be periodically attached to the 206th Division for combined-arms training purposes only.

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207th Infantry Division

17. [] The 207th Infantry Division contains units comprising the division headquarters, the division-level support units, the 619th Infantry Regiment, the 620th Infantry Regiment, and the 621st Infantry Regiment.

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18. (S/D) In March 1979, a rocket launcher battalion comprised of 18 BM-13 rocket launchers was observed for the first time at Julebu Headquarters Infantry Division and Barracks AL-4. Based on initial analysis, it was speculated that this may have been an interim substitution of an older model MRI, in lieu

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of the BM-14/-19 MRL. Recent reports of Chinese development of rocket-dispersed mines, using the BM-13 launcher, coupled with the high density of BM-13 launchers at Julebu present the possibility that these launchers may be used to support engineer minelaying operations. The question of the specific function for these MRLs is still unresolved.

19. [] The 487th Artillery Regiment moved to a newly constructed barracks area 1.6 nm southwest of its former location at Jining Army Barracks South A-lien-kou Al-1 during 1978 (Figure 5). Consistently high counts of field artillery pieces have been observed at this facility since 1978. The total weapons present within this regiment is far in excess of the standard regimental allowance. An excess of one gun battalion and one battery of howitzers has been in evidence since the completion of the new facility in 1978. It has not been determined if this is a permanent change to the overall unit structure of this regiment.

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Independent Garrison Division

20. [] The independent garrison division at Huade appears to be structured similarly to others in this category throughout the military region. []

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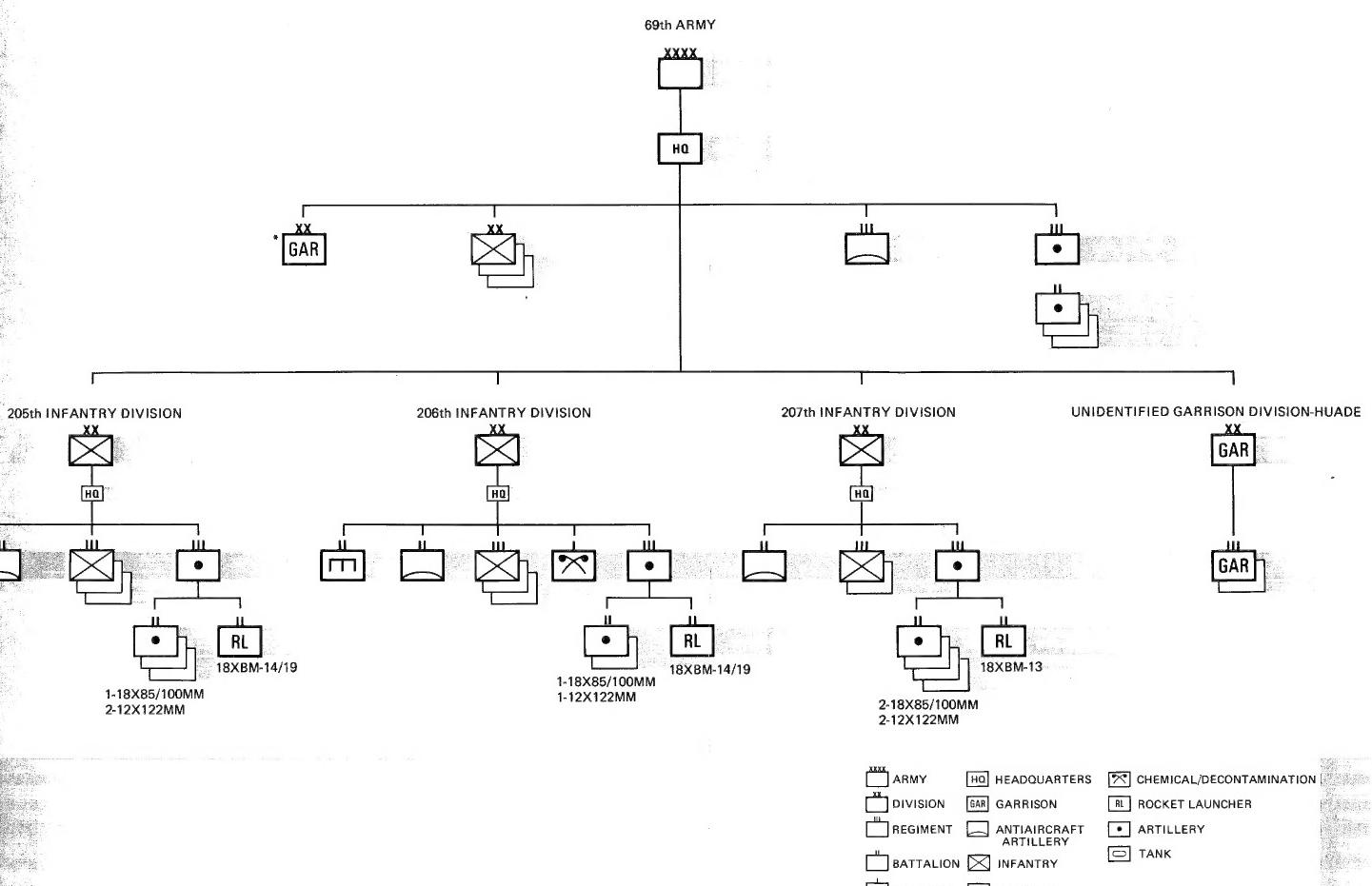
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[] The presence of extensive antitank ditching around most of the defensive strong points and the predominance of field guns observed with this unit suggest a strong antitank posture.

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*PROB SUBORDINATE TO 69th ARMY

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CHART 1. 69TH ARMY, UNITS CONFIRMED FROM IMAGERY ANALYSIS

Table 1.**69th Army Units as Derived from All-Source Information***This table in its entirety is classified TOP SECRET RUFF*

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Unit	Installation	Coordinates	BE No	Remarks
69th Army Headquarters and Support Units				25X1
Hq Army	Datong Hq Army & Bks NW AL-1	40-07-00N 113-16-18E		Engineer, signal, and chem defense battalions have not been identified by any source
Artillery regt				Standard TO&E: 152mm, 122mm, 85mm gun battalion; rocket launcher battalion last seen in Oct 76
AAA regt	Datong Army & Barracks AL-11	40-03-22N 113-12-18E		No AAA equipment seen in 1979; western portion of barracks area appears to be nonmilitary
Mt bn	Datong Army & Bks SW AL-12	40-03-23N 113-11-35E		
205th Infantry Division				
205th Inf Div Hq	Jining Hq Inf Div & Bks AL-6/Defense Area	40-59-31N 113-03-57E		Hq complex within defensive area not pinpointed by imagery
485th Arty Regt				Rocket launcher bn & 18 BM-14 MRL, first identified Apr 78; regiment is composed of three gun/howitzer battalions and rocket launcher bn
AAA regt				Upgraded to regiment from battalion by May 1978; new bks complex construction site in NE corner of installation
Mt bn				
613th, 614th, & 615th Inf Regt				
Engineer bn	Jining Army & Bks AL-5	40-59-00N 113-07-05		A poss unid unit is housed within the engineer barracks complex
206th Infantry Division				
206th Inf Div Hq	Datong Hq Inf Div & Bks NW AL-2	40-06-45N 113-15-26E		New company-sized bks area added during 78-79 time period
AAA bn				
Eng bn				Ponton bridge company equipped with TPP pontons
486th Arty Regt				Rocket launcher bn added as early as May 77; 3rd bn unid
616th Inf Regt				
Mt unit				
Chem co/decon unit				
Tank co	Datong Hq Inf Div & Bks	40-06-45N 113-15-26E		No recent photographic evidence that unit exists
617th Inf Regt	Datong Army Bks AL-14	40-07-20N 113-14-40E		Occasionally observed; believed to be detached from Datong armd div
618th Inf Regt	Datong Army Bks AL-10	40-07-54N 113-17-18E		Construction of 4th bn size area complete
207th Infantry Division				A second unid unit is believed to be housed in area B1
207th Inf Div Hq	Julebu Hq Inf Div & Bks AL-4	40-10-13N 113-27-40E		Collocated units include engineer bn & AAA bn
Eng bn				May have BM-13 associated in minelaying capacity
AAA bn				
487th Arty Regt	Jining Army Bks S A-lien-kou AL-1	40-46-20N 113-10-50E		Appears to have an extra 85mm field gun bn and 1 x 122mm gun btry; BM-14/-19 rocket launcher bn not confirmed by collateral data as part of regt
619th Inf Regt	Jining Army Bks AL-4 & Def Area	40-51-20N 113-32-00E		
620th Inf Regt	Jining Hq Inf Div Bks AL-6/Def Area	40-59-30N 113-03-57E		Not confirmed by imagery analysis
621st Inf Regt	Yanggao Army Bks WNW AL-1	40-21-57N 113-43-40E		
Unidentified Garrison Division				
Unid div hq gar regts, AAA bn, rocket launcher bn	Huade Hq Gar Div/Bks AL-4 and Defensive Area	42-03-18N 113-42-25E		May have more than 2 garrison regts in area
Unid gar regt	Ko-hua-ssu-tai Army Bks and Defensive Area	41-57-05N 113-13-20E		No rocket launchers seen; poss change in structure with rocket launchers being deployed under division control similar to AAA bn

IMAGERY ANALYST'S COMMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

21. [] During the more than three-year period covered by this report, most of the units and installations of the 69th Army were imaged an average of two to three times a year. Because of the presence of vehicle/equipment storage buildings and the lack of imagery during the normal seasonal training exercises, it has not been possible to determine the full extent of force and equipment upgradings in this army. The overall structure appears to be a combination of the old and new tables of organization and equipment (TO&E). A partial force upgrading occurred during the 1976 through 1978 time period, principally in the artillery units with the introduction of truck-mounted rocket launchers and the replacement of the mortar battalions with 122mm howitzer battalions. One AAA artillery battalion was upgraded to regiment size, one of the first division upgradings observed in China.

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23. [] Because of the 69th Army's position as the first main force unit on the northern defensive line of the Beijing Military Region, it is believed that the 69th Army and its subordinate elements will continue a gradual upgrading of equipment over the next one or two years, paralleling the evolution of the Chinese tactical doctrine. Recent open-source reports of the Chinese training in combined-arms operations (joint armor, infantry, and artillery maneuvers) are of interest because of the proximity of the independent armor division to the army. It would be reasonable to assume that if the Chinese military leaders pursue this line of tactical training, such training would be undertaken by this army in the near future.

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All applicable KEYHOLE imagery acquired through [] was used in the preparation of this report.

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MAPS OR CHARTS

US Air Target Chart. Series 200; Sheets 0288-14, -15, -19, -20, -24, and -25; scale 1:200,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

International Map of the World. DMATC Series 1301, Sheet NK-49, ed 3, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

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2. DIA. DDB-1100-209-79, *Tables of Organization and Equipment, People's Republic of China Army (U)*, Sep 79 (SECRET) 25X1
3. DIRNSA. Msg 280258Z, *The Status of Beijing Military Region Armies*, 28 Aug 79, (SECRET []) 25X1
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DIA. [] *Hua-Te Army Barracks AL-4 and Defensive Area*, Mar 75 (TOP SECRET []) 25X1

CIA. [] *Imagery Analysts Memorandum - Subject: Chinese Antiaircraft Artillery Units Upgraded (S)*, 23 Nov 79 (TOP SECRET []) 25X1
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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

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